

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for securing a position of a bail on a fishing reel in each of a first bail position and a second bail position by applying a securing force against a bail support arm supporting a first end of the bail, the apparatus comprising:

5 a plunger having a first end and a second end, the first end being slidably coupled with the second end by a compressible element configured to force the first end away from the second end;  
a plunger mount swivelably receiving the second end of the plunger; and  
an elongated opening in the bail support arm for receiving the first end of the  
10 plunger, the elongated opening having its longer dimension generally circumferentially aligned along a surface of the bail support arm such that when the bail support arm is rotated from the first bail position to the second bail position the compressible element forces the first end to slide along the longer dimension of the elongated opening until the first end contacts a distal  
15 end of the elongated opening.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the compressible element includes a spring.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the plunger includes a housing having a receiving end and an opposing end, the receiving end being configured to receive the compressible element and a first end of slidable rod to compress the compressible element  
20 between the closed end of the housing and the first end of the slidable rod.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated opening is generally elliptical in shape.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated opening is generally rectangular in shape.

25 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated opening includes a trailing end configured to guide the first end of the plunger past an over-center position such that once the first end passes through the over-center position the first end of the plunger slides along the elongated dimension of the elongated opening until the first end contacts the distal end of the elongated opening.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated opening includes an outward-facing channel disposed on an outer surface of the bail support arm, the outer surface of the bail support arm being generally parallel with a rotation axis of the bail support arm.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the elongated opening includes a restraining device configured to slidably restrain the first end of the plunger to slide between the trailing end of the elongated opening and the distal end of the elongated opening.

9. An apparatus for securing a position of a bail on a fishing reel in each of a first bail position and a second bail position by applying a securing force against a bail support arm supporting a first end of the bail, the apparatus comprising:

a plunger having a first end and a second end, the first end being slidably coupled with the second end by a compressible element configured to force the first end away from the second end;

a plunger mount swivelably receiving the second end of the plunger; and

a receiving orifice in the bail support arm for receiving the first end of the plunger, the receiving orifice including:

an elongated opening with a longer dimension generally circumferentially aligned along a surface of the bail support arm;

a trailing end of the elongated opening configured to guide the first end of the plunger past an over-center position as the bail support arm is rotated between the first position and the second position such that the compressible element forces the first end of the plunger to slide along the longer dimension of the elongated opening away from the trailing end; and

a distal end of the elongated opening configured to receive the first end of the plunger and generate a sound when the first end reaches the distal end.

10. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the compressible element includes a spring.

11. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the plunger includes a housing having a receiving end and an opposing end, the receiving end being configured to receive the compressible element and a first end of slidable rod to compress the compressible element between the closed end of the housing and the first end of the slidable rod such that sliding the slidable rod into the housing results in the plunger generating a linear compression between the opposing end of the housing and a second end of the slidable rod.

12. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the elongated opening is generally elliptical in shape.

13. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the elongated opening is generally rectangular in shape.

5 14. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the elongated opening includes an outward-facing channel disposed on an outer surface of the bail support arm, the outer surface of the bail support arm being generally parallel with a rotation axis of the bail support arm.

15. The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the elongated opening includes a restraining device configured to slidably restrain the first end of the plunger to slide between the trailing  
10 end of the elongated opening and the distal end of the elongated opening.

16. A spinning reel fishing apparatus, the apparatus including:

a support configured to mount the apparatus on a pole;

a line spool configured to receive a length of fishing line wrapped around a surface of the spool, the surface of the spool being parallel to a spool axis;

15 a bail including:

a line guide configured to guide fishing line onto the line spool;

a bail arm configured to capture the fishing line and guide it toward the line guide;

20 a bail securing apparatus for securing a position of the bail by applying a securing force against a bail support arm supporting a first end of the bail, the bail securing apparatus including:

25 a plunger having a first end and a second end, the first end being slidably coupled with the second end by a compressible element configured to force the first end away from the second end;

a plunger mount swivelably receiving the second end of the plunger; and

30 an elongated opening in the bail support arm for receiving the first end of the plunger, the elongated opening having a longer dimension generally circumferentially aligned along a surface of the bail support arm such that when the bail support arm is rotated from the first bail position to the second bail position the compressible element forces the first end to slide along the

elongated dimension of the elongated opening until the first end contacts a distal end of the elongated opening; and  
a rotatable housing rotatably supporting the bail, the rotatable housing being configured to rotate the bail around the spool axis and wind the fishing line onto the spool; and  
a spooling mechanism coupled with the rotatable housing and a crank such that when an operator turns the crank the spooling mechanism causes the rotatable housing to rotate about the spool axis of the spool.

17. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the compressible element includes a spring.

18. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the plunger includes a housing having a receiving end and an opposing end, the receiving end being configured to receive the compressible element and a first end of slidable rod to compress the compressible element between the closed end of the housing and the first end of the slidable rod such that sliding the slidable rod into the housing results in the plunger generating a linear compression between the opposing end of the housing and a second end of the slidable rod.

19. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the elongated opening is generally elliptical in shape.

20. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the elongated opening is generally rectangular in shape.

21. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the elongated opening includes a trailing end configured to guide the first end of the plunger past an over-center position such that once the first end passes through the over-center position the first end of the plunger slides along the elongated dimension of the elongated opening until the first end contacts the distal end of the elongated opening.

22. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the elongated opening includes an outward-facing channel disposed on an outer surface of the bail support arm, the outer surface of the bail support arm being generally parallel with a rotation axis of the bail support arm.

23. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the elongated opening includes a restraining device configured to slidably restrain the first end of the plunger to slide between the trailing end of the elongated opening and the distal end of the elongated opening.

24. A spinning reel fishing apparatus, the apparatus including:

a support configured to mount the apparatus on a pole;

a line spool configured to receive a length of fishing line wrapped around a surface of the spool, the surface of the spool being parallel to a spool axis;

a bail including:

a line guide configured to guide fishing line onto the line spool;

a bail arm configured to capture the fishing line and guide it toward the line guide;

a bail securing apparatus for securing a position of the bail by applying a securing force against a bail support arm supporting a first end of the bail, the bail securing apparatus including:

a plunger having a first end and a second end, the first end being slidably coupled with the second end by a compressible element configured to force the first end away from the second end;

a plunger mount swivelably receiving the second end of the plunger; and

a receiving orifice in the bail support arm for receiving the first end of the plunger, the receiving orifice including:

an elongated opening with an elongated dimension generally circumferentially aligned along a surface of the bail support arm;

a trailing end of the elongated opening configured to guide the first end of the plunger past an over-center position as the bail support arm is rotated between the first position and the second position such that the compressible element forces the first end of the plunger to slide along the elongated dimension of the elongated opening away from the trailing end; and

a distal end of the elongated opening configured to receive the first end of the plunger and generate a sound when the first end reaches the distal end; and

a rotatable housing rotatably supporting the bail, the rotatable housing being configured to rotate the bail around the spool axis and wind the fishing line onto the spool; and

a spooling mechanism coupled with the rotatable housing and a crank such that when an operator turns the crank the spooling mechanism causes the rotatable housing to rotate about the spool axis of the spool.

25. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the compressible element includes a spring.

5 26. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the plunger includes a housing having a receiving end and an opposing end, the receiving end being configured to receive the compressible element and a first end of slidable rod to compress the compressible element between the closed end of the housing and the first end of the slidable rod such that sliding the slidable rod into the housing results in the plunger generating a linear compression  
10 between the opposing end of the housing and a second end of the slidable rod.

27. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the elongated opening is generally elliptical in shape.

28. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the elongated opening is generally rectangular in shape.

15 29. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the elongated opening includes an outward-facing channel disposed on an outer surface of the bail support arm, the outer surface of the bail support arm being generally parallel with a rotation axis of the bail support arm.

20 30. The apparatus of Claim 24, wherein the elongated opening includes a restraining device configured to slidably restrain the first end of the plunger to slide between the trailing end of the elongated opening and the distal end of the elongated opening.